

Ramped-up enforcement

In an ongoing push to fortify the Southwestern border, apprehensions of illegal border-crossers are on the decline.

How Border Patrol efforts and results have changed

From 2005 to 2009, more Border Patrol agents were deployed to the Southwest border and more tactical infrastructure, such as border-security fence and vehicle barriers, was constructed. In the same time, apprehensions of undocumented immigrants declined significantly, but seizures of drugs and cash were on the rise.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all figures shown on map refer to fiscal year 2009 and changes since fiscal 2005.

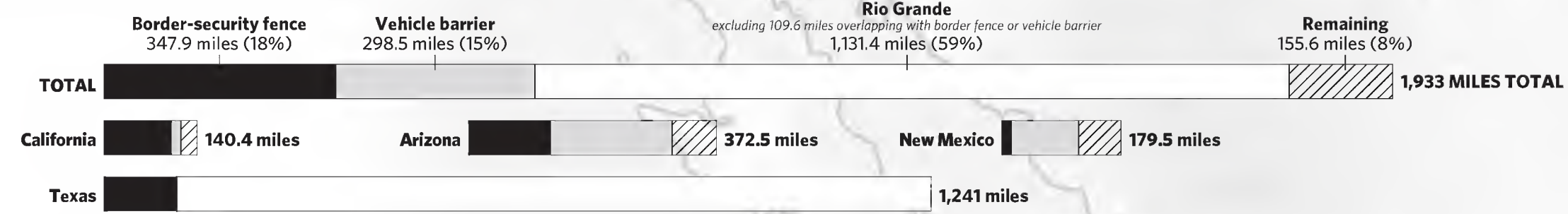
Border Patrol agents **17,408** (up 76%)
Miles of barriers **646.4** (up 380%)
Apprehensions **540,865** (down 53.8%)
Drug seizures (pounds)* **672,696** (up 39.2%)
Cash seizures (outbound). **\$37,169,509** (up 393%)

* Change from 2006 to 2009.



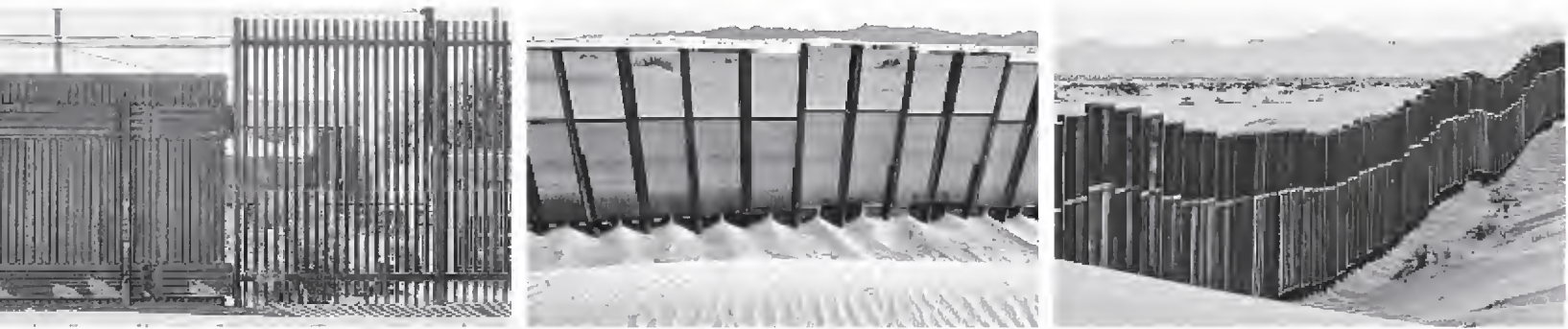
How much border fence exists

Nearly 650 miles, or about one-third, of the border is lined with border-security fence or vehicle barrier.



Types of barriers along the border

Border-security fence includes fencing in place prior to 2006 (left) and newer, taller fencing (center, right) designed to be more difficult to climb.



Vehicle barriers are built to block vehicles but reportedly have been crossed with ramps. They can't stop pedestrians.



Additional border barriers are under construction in southern Texas, one area where the urban environment on each side of the border has made the prevention of drug-trafficking more difficult.

Sources: Patrol and apprehension data from Customs and Border Protection. Map and fence data from American Border Patrol, a border watchdog group, and Customs and Border Protection.